

TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

The Christmas season begins with the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this time, the Church celebrates all of the events of Jesus' early years until he begins his public ministry at his baptism. The liturgical color of the season is white or gold. All of the Christmas liturgies during this season are joy-filled. They celebrate the arrival of the Messiah, and they send the assembly forth to spread the Good News of the light of Christ found in the People of God.

God's Word



Read **Ephesians 1:3–6** to learn about Paul's image of God's unlimited love that includes all as members of the same body who work together to spread the Gospel.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Christmas

- Most children this age are fascinated by the story of the birth of Jesus, and they love to visit the parish Nativity scene. Take time to go to the Nativity scene several times during the Christmas season.
- Ordinarily, second-graders know some popular Christmas hymns; repetition of those hymns teaches them the story and the meaning of the season.



CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

Christmas Traditions

Catholic family rituals and traditions are important for faith development for the whole family. They lend deeper meaning to adults and give children a stable base to grow on. You are probably passing on some of the traditions of your childhood. If you have not started any yet, consider some of these:

- Read the Christmas story from the Gospels every Christmas Eve or Day as your family gathers to open gifts.
- Bless your house on the feast of the Epiphany. You can find directions and prayers at aliveinchrist.osv.com.
- Donate new and used clothes, toys, books, or games to a thrift store or shelter.
- Teach your child a Christmas hymn (Silent Night, Joy to the World). Sing it often. The repetition will help them remember the words.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



God, our Gracious Father, we give you thanks and praise for all the blessings and gifts you have given us, especially the gift of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.